

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, October 26, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1404 of Public Law 99-661 (20 U.S.C. 4703), I hereby appoint the following individual to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Mr. Owen B. Pickett, Virginia.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

**STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY
AND MEDICARE ACT OF 1999—
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 106-149)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Rules, and the Committee on the Budget, and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith for your immediate consideration a legislative proposal entitled the "Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999."

The Social Security system is one of the cornerstones of American national policy and together with the additional protections afforded by the Medicare system, has helped provide retirement security for millions of Americans over the last 60 years. However, the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds is not guaranteed. The Social Security trust fund is currently expected to become insolvent starting in 2034 as the number of retired workers doubles. The Medicare system also faces significant financial shortfalls, with the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund projected to become exhausted in 2015. We need to take additional steps to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations of Americans.

In addition to preserving Social Security and Medicare, the Congress and the President have a responsibility to future generations to reduce the debt held by the public. Paying down the debt will produce substantial interest savings, and this legislation proposes to devote these entirely to Social Security after 2010. At the same time, by contributing to the growth of the overall economy debt reduction will improve the Government's ability to fulfill its responsibilities and to face future challenges, including preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

The enclosed bill would help achieve these goals by devoting the entire Social Security surpluses to debt reduction, extending the solvency of Social Security to 2050, protecting Social Se-

curity and Medicare funds in the budget process, reserving one-third of the non-Social Security surplus to strengthen and modernize Medicare, and paying down the debt by 2015. It is clear and straightforward legislation that would strengthen and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our children and grandchildren. The bill would:

- Extend the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050 by reinvesting the interest savings from the debt reduction resulting from Social Security surpluses.
- Establish a Medicare surplus reserve equal to one-third of any on-budget surplus for the total of the period of fiscal years 2000 through 2009 to strengthen and modernize Medicare.
- Add a further protection for Social Security and Medicare by extending the budget enforcement rules that have provided the foundation for our fiscal discipline, including the discretionary caps and pay-as-you-go budget rules.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 26, 1999.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

**CONGRESS IS TRYING TO STOP
THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY
FOR THE PEOPLE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mrs. NORTHUP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is committed to restoring the faith and opportunity into our government system.

For years, Congress after Congress has dipped into the social security trust fund to pay for new programs with little accountability of how funds were to be used and an empty promise to pay it back. The Congresses of yesterday broke trust with the American people, and now all generations are suffering.

Mr. Speaker, it is enshrined forever in the three opening words of the living document that we swear our allegiance to, our Constitution. Our Founders had the great and good sense to use the words "We, the people." The people is why Congress is fighting so hard to stop the raid on social security.

It is not about which party is in control, who kept their promises, and who broke theirs. It is about having a social security system for the people when they need it, our parents and grandparents who need it now and in the fu-

ture. It is about maintaining the system so that our children may be protected, and it is about the price our children must pay to get the same benefits as their descendants did. It is about drawing the line on new Federal spending now, so that our children do not have to continue to fund this never-ending stream of new programs being requested by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is very much about the people. We are listening to the conversations around dinner tables, in bingo halls, and in the grocery store parking lots. This is why this House has restored the faith by having every penny in the social security surplus to provide the retirement system for working Americans. It is the common sense of the American people which tells us to stop the raid on social security.

This Congress is using common sense, and will continue the commitment to social security and the people of this Nation. Our only hope is that this administration will stop calling for more spending and make this commitment, as well. We, the people, will prevail again.

**ON THE PASSING OF JAMES
ALEXANDER FORBES, SENIOR**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a man that really has made a difference in this Nation, James Alexander Forbes, Senior, a minister who passed away just recently. The funeral was yesterday.

He had eight children. Of course, he educated all of his eight children. They received at least a master's degree, and four of the eight children have doctor's degrees. He did this at the same time he was in school himself. He went to school with his three children that were in college, and he was in college right along with them. Of course, it shows us his commitment to education. He was not able to start out early in life, so therefore he felt it was important to get an education and to encourage his children, as well. He was a man who truly pulled himself up by his bootstraps.

When we look at his family in terms of what the children were able to accomplish, we look at the pastor of Riverside Church, Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Junior, one of the children, of course, and then we have David Forbes, who is one of the outstanding ministers in the State of North Carolina, and then, of course, we have another daughter that is a lawyer here and working in HUD, and then we have several that are in education, and another son that is a psychiatrist practicing in Richmond, Virginia, it goes to show us in terms of the fact that if we are committed, the kind of things we can do.